



R & D NEWS



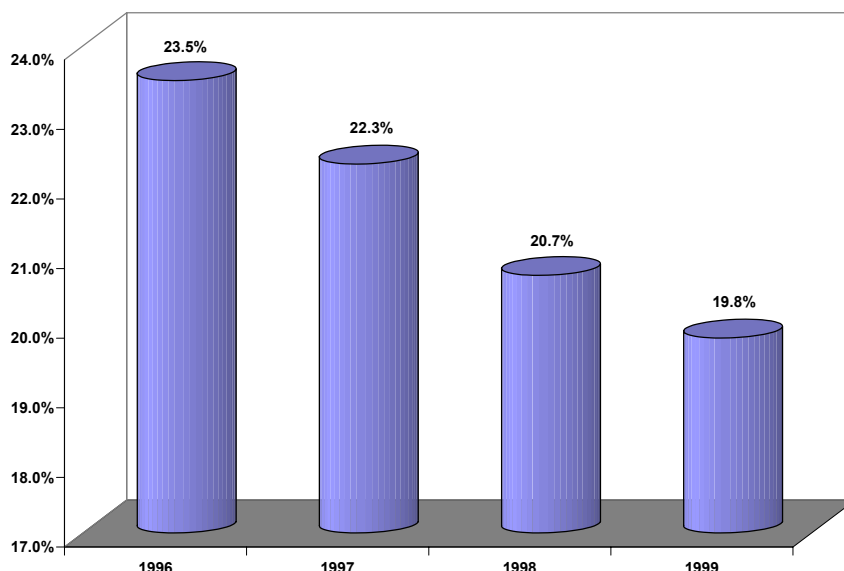
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ADJC Releases Sentenced to Prison Within 36 Months: By Year of Release



Lana Harrison and Steven Martin, *Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners: Implementation Lessons Learned*, National Institute of Justice, April 2003.

This publication reports on an evaluation of the federal Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program. "Funding for the RSAT initiative represented the largest sum ever devoted to the development of substance abuse treatment programs in State and local correctional facilities - \$270 million over 5 years (1996-2000)." About 70% of the RSAT programs targeted adult offenders and the remainder targeted juveniles. RSAT programs were between 6 and 12 months in duration, and they were provided in a residential setting separate from the general population. They were designed to address the cognitive, behavioral, social, vocational and other skills needed to resolve substance abuse problems. RSAT programs required urinalysis or other drug and alcohol testing after release. Three-fourths of the funded RSAT programs were new, and the remainder were existing programs that were expanded. The programs faced many difficulties. Many (55%) lacked one or more operational treatment components. Indeed, few RSAT programs delivered all of the services they had planned, and there was a general lack of aftercare

ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA

We all know that ADJC receives the most troubled juveniles in Arizona. How many of the juveniles that we receive come from families with criminal/delinquent backgrounds?

programs. Many RSAT programs experienced significant staff turnover, and often-times, the programs were established with inexperienced staff. Many correctional agencies have policies discouraging or denying employment to individuals with criminal backgrounds or those in recovery. "Because therapeutic communities are often staffed with a mixture of recovering therapeutic-community graduates and degreed professionals, such policies further

limited the programs' ability to locate and retain qualified staff." Inappropriate referrals to the RSAT program were common, with the most common problem being too little or too much time left on the offender's sentence. Evaluators found that "even with adequate resources and excellent administrative support from the correctional system, program implementation was a torturous process, and program stability was not reached for at least 2 to 3 years." The programs that fared the best were those that used RSAT funds to expand existing programs, tied sentence length to program completion, had the support of high level administrators, used experienced and well-trained staff and properly matched clients with appropriate treatment. Based on a study done of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs in 1994, the authors concluded that properly functioning substance abuse programs can yield savings of roughly \$7 for each \$1 spent on treatment.

Charles Katz, Vincent Webb and Todd Armstrong, *Fear of Gangs: A Test of Alternative Theoretical Models*, Justice Quarterly, March 2003.

Katz, Webb and Armstrong of Arizona State University – West, note that gangs and gang crime became the focus of public attention in the 1980s because gangs were blamed for much of our nation's crime and drug problems. While there has been a considerable amount of research on gangs, there has been little research done on the fear associated with gangs. One study found that police gang units were created more in response to perceived threatening elements within a community e.g., number of minorities, rather than an increase in gang problems. Fear of crime, has been found to be higher among women, minorities, the poor, and those with lower education levels. This ASU-West study involved a telephone survey of 800 randomly selected people in Mesa, Arizona conducted during August and September 2001. The respondents were found to have characteristics similar to those of all Mesa residents. The researchers found that three factors correlated with fear of gangs: gender, race and prior victimization. Indeed, women were found to be more fearful of gangs than men, and minorities (primarily Hispanics) were found to be more fearful than whites. Those directly or indirectly victimized (by gangs or by non-gangs) were more fearful of gangs than those not victimized. Overall the researchers concluded that "...fear of gangs is not simply a consequence of, or in direct relation to, objective threat...fear of gangs may be part of larger processes involving broader problems within a community, rather than the result of an objective threat."

Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Juveniles and Drugs*, June 2003.

This fact sheet was prepared to summarize current information on juveniles and illegal drugs. According to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 10.8% of youth age 12-17 reported current use of illegal drugs in 2001, an increase from 9.7% in 2000. Marijuana was the most common illegal drug used for this age group. This survey also indicated that the earlier in life people initiate drug use, the more likely they are to develop a drug problem; or more likely to be at risk for suicide. Also reported in this fact sheet are findings from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS) survey, where CDC surveys high school students nationwide. In 2001 over 50% of surveyed 12 graders reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetime. YRBS reported 28.5% of all students surveyed were offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property within the last 12 months of the survey. The use of drugs by juveniles can have serious effects on the individual's health, behavior, and development. Juvenile drug-related arrests have increased; in 2001 juvenile drug abuse arrests represented 8.9% of all arrests of individuals under 18 and approximately 13% of drug arrest among all age groups. Most juvenile courts have now established drug courts for intensive treatment programs to provide specialized services to eligible drug-involved juveniles and their families.

ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA ANSWER

Over two-thirds (67.8%) of a recent cohort of ADJC new commitments had a caregiver and/or sibling with a recent conviction or adjudication. Many of them (13.2%) had a caregiver or sibling in prison at the time of their commitment.